



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Treaty Day Celebration and PRCA ProRodeo

Window Rock, AZ – May 3, 2011 - Navajo Parks and Recreation will host the 2nd Annual Treaty Days Celebration and PRCA ProRodeo June 1-5. The celebration will take place in Window Rock Arizona at the Navajo Nation Fair Grounds to commemorate the Treaty of 1868.

The Navajo People came to an agreement with the U.S. Government, signing the Treaty of 1868 on June 1st to end an imprisonment that lasted from 1864 to 1868. In the year of 1864, thousands of Navajos were forced to leave their land and make their way to Bosque Redondo. Some of them had to walk more than 450 miles, and many were murdered or died along the way from harsh weather conditions or starvation. This trip came to be known as “The Long Walk” or “Hweeldi.”

June 1st is the Navajo Nation Memorial Day. It is a time to mourn for those who lost their lives during the The Long Walk. To remember the brave who fought to preserve the Navajo way of life. To remember those who ensured the generations who follow to keep hold of their Navajo culture, language, and tradition. A day to celebrate the advancements made from one Navajo generation to the next. It is also the day that kicks off the Treaty Days Celebration and PRCA ProRodeo. Navajo Parks and Recreation has the responsibility to the Navajo Nation Government and the Navajo People to implement and coordinate the annual Treaty Days Celebration in June and Navajo Nation Fair in September.

Navajo Parks and Recreation Department’s Fair Manager, Norma Bowman started her Parks and Recreation career by accepting the position as Economic Development Specialist in 2009. Since then she was named Fair Manager. “I was part of the team that produced the 23rd Annual Fourth of July Youth Celebration and PRCA ProRodeo, the 63rd Annual Navajo Nation Fair, 1st Annual Treaty Days Celebration and PRCA ProRodeo and 64th Annual Navajo Nation Fair.

This years Treaty Days Celebration will be based on creativity and thinking outside the box due to a limited budget Norma Bowman stated, “The challenges are to produce the same high-quality Event that the Navajo Nation has seen and to definitely take that reputation into perspective. The attempts are to locate partners who believe in the same vision that we have as Event planners and to ensure its success. Partners/Sponsors are key to this year’s success”.

Every year Fair Coordinators volunteer their time and talents to the Fair. Unlike previous years the Fair Coordinators will be required to raise money for the events they volunteer to coordinate. This task is most certainly challenging. Navajo Parks and Recreation Department is very appreciative for the brave individuals who are making the impossible, possible. These individuals are: Carma Laughlin, Carnival/Concession Services; Penny Johnson and Henry Wallace, Emergency Medical Services; Burley Cole, Entertainment; Wade Williams, Janitorial Services; Sherylene Yazzie, Open Junior Rodeo; Brian James, Parking Services; Henry Moore and Angie Tsosie, Police Services; Arthur Moore, Sanitation Services; Wanda Nelson, Vendors; Larita Stevens, Youth Activities. Other activities may be added to the schedule when more Fair Event Coordinators become available.



Traditional Powwow dancers competing in the 2010 Treaty Day Celebration

This years 2nd annual Treaty Days Celebration theme is “Embracing our Culture; Preserving our Tradition.” This celebration is intended “for our Navajo Nation people to embrace the history of what our ancestors have done for us and continue to apply these dynamics in today’s society. There is a reason our Dine’ people have survived the test of time, only to excel themselves at a high place today, we need to embrace those steps and preserve it today, by teaching our Youth the importance of these historical events including the importance of the Treaty of 1868,” Norma explained.



Wild Horse Race participants competing in the 2010 Treaty Day Celebration

The five-day event will occur during the week of June 1-5. The main event will be the PRCA ProRodeo. The event caters to the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association athletes and its fan base. Many PRCA Cowboys have regarded the Navajo Nation as one of their favorite stops. The Navajo Nation contributes a large number of fans to the PRCA. The PRCA events will begin with Slack at 8:00 am and the 1st performance at 7:30 pm on Thursday, June 2. The second performance will begin Friday, June 3rd at 7:30 pm. Saturday, June 4th will be PRCA’s last day in Window Rock. Slack will begin at 8:00 am and the final performance at 7:30 pm.

Another favorite is the Open Junior Rodeo. The Open Junior Rodeo is for youth; ages 6 and under to 19 years of age The Junior Rodeo will take place Sunday, June 5th. Many aspiring young cowboys and cowgirls anticipate this event that is especially for them. It is an all day event beginning at 8:00 am that will hold events such as wooley riding, barrel racing, flag racing, goat tagging, breakaway roping, pole bending, steer riding, bull riding, bareback, saddle bronc, team roping and chute dodging.

Other events will be the five day Frazier Carnival opening every day at 10:00 am, Gourd Dancing, Powwow, Wild Horse Race, Country Dance with Johnny Lee and traditional games. This year traditional games will include the purse race, the fruit scramble and the pots and pans race.



Purse Race participants in the 2010 Treaty Day Celebration Traditional Games.

For more information call the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department at 928-871-6647 or visit navajonationfair.com to review the schedule of events.

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